

# SONGS *of the* SOUTH



*Words and Music*  
*of*  
*17 Favorite Negro Spirituals*



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## THE NEGRO SPIRITUAL

*Prof. Frederick Hall, Director of Music, Dillard University, New Orleans*

The Spiritual had its beginning in the heart of the Negro as he labored in the fields of the South. These songs are outbursts of religious fervor and in many cases are influenced by conditions which surrounded the people in whose minds they were born.

They are called Spirituals, Jubilees, Melodies, Folk Songs. Either name is correct. They are called Jubilees because of the ray of hope that is expressed in each. Regardless of how sad the song might be, or how miserable the conditions surrounding its birth, there is always found in it a definite pointing to a great day of Jubilee when all sadness will be turned into gladness. They are called Spirituals because of the deep religious feeling they express. They are called Melodies because of the striking melody built upon a scale that was originated by the slaves. When a new song was born it usually began with a new melody hummed by one person. After the tune was caught, the whole group or congregation would join in, increasing the strength of the melody and adding harmony. These songs are called Folk Songs because they satisfy the scientific definition of Folk Song, which definition is too well known to mention here.

The Negro Spirituals express a sympathy of feeling between words and music not always found even in the compositions of learned musicians. For instance, the originators of these songs would never have taken words such as "Nobody Knows De Trouble I See" and set them to a happy tune like "Every Time I Feel the Spirit." In every instance words and music harmonize; and herein lies real artistry.

Some of these songs are sad and some are happier. This is true because of the difference in living conditions of the people who originated them. In different sections there are different interpretations, different words and slightly varying melodies of songs that originally were the same. This is true because at first the songs were not written down, but were carried from place to place in the minds of the Negroes, and very frequently a new condition caused a slight change of the song.

These songs are deeply religious and should not be sung in such a way as to cause laughter or ridicule. Instrumental accompaniment always spoils the effect of the songs, and sometimes robs them of their identity.

The Spirituals show the character of the people in whose hearts they originated. Though composed in the days of slavery as expressions of the heartache of servitude and the longing for freedom, they reveal no trace of bitterness or revenge, but only the virtues of faith, hope and love. Perhaps it is this fact that gives the Spirituals the soul-stirring power that has made them popular around the world.



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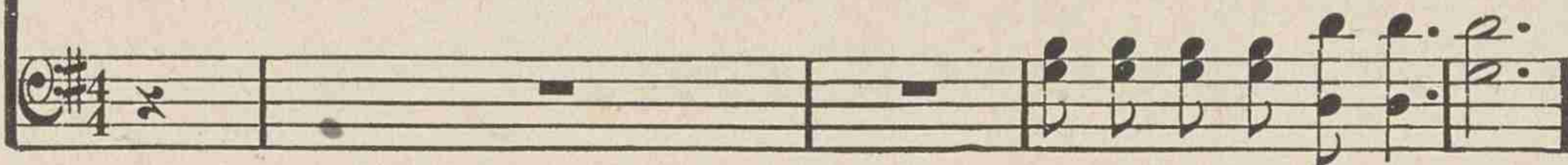
## SONGS OF THE SOUTH

1

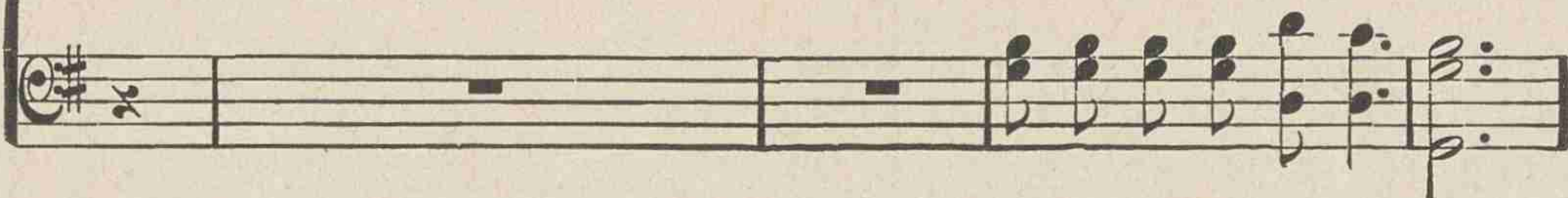
## Standin' in the Need of Prayer.



1. Not my brother, nor my sis-ter, but it's me, O Lord, Standin' in the need of prayer;
2. Not the preacher, nor the deacon, but it's me, O Lord, Standin' in the need of prayer;
3. Not my father, nor my moth-er, but it's me, O Lord, Standin' in the need of prayer;
4. Not the stranger, nor my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord, Standin' in the need of prayer;



Not my broth-er, nor my sis-ter, but it's me, O Lord, Standin' in the need of prayer.  
Not the preacher, nor the deacon, but it's me, O Lord, Standin' in the need of prayer.  
Not my fa-ther, nor my brother, but it's me, O Lord, Standin' in the need of prayer.  
Not the stranger, nor my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord, Standin' in the need of prayer.



## CHORUS.



It's me, it's me, O Lord, Stand-in' in the need of prayer;  
It's me,




It's me, it's me, O Lord, Stand-in' in the need of prayer.  
It's me,



Ella Walker (86)



## Lord, I Want to be a Christian.



1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In - a my heart, in - a my  
 2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In - a my heart, in - a my  
 3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In - a my heart, in - a my  
 4. I don't want to be like Ju - das In - a my heart, in - a my  
 5. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In - a my heart, in - a my



heart, Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In - a my heart.  
 heart, Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In - a my heart.  
 heart, Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In - a my heart.  
 heart, I don't want to be like Ju - das In - a my heart.  
 heart, Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In - a my heart.

REFRAIN.



In - a my heart,..... In - a my heart,.....  
 In - a my heart, In - a my heart,



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In - a my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In - a my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In - a my heart.  
 I don't want to be like Ju - das In - a my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In - a my heart.



### 3 Somebody's Knocking at Your Door.

CHORUS. *Moderato.*

Some-bod - y's knocking at your door, Some-bod-y's knocking at your door;

O sin-ner, why don't you answer? Some-bod-y's knocking at your door.

1. Knocks like Je - sus, Some-bod - y's knock-ing at your door;  
 2. Can't you hear Him? Some-bod - y's knock-ing at your door;  
 3. An - swer Je - sus, Some-bod - y's knock-ing at your door;  
 4. Je - sus calls you, Some-bod - y's knock-ing at your door;  
 5. Can't you trust Him? Some-bod - y's knock-ing at your door;


Knocks like Je - sus, Some-bod - y's knock-ing at your door.  
 Can't you hear Him? Some-bod - y's knock-ing at your door.  
 An - swer Je - sus, Some-bod - y's knock-ing at your door.  
 Je - sus calls you, Some-bod - y's knock-ing at your door.  
 Can't you trust Him? Some-bod - y's knock-ing at your door.




## Some o' These Days.



1. I'm a - go - na walk on the streets of glo - - ry,  
 2. I'm a - go - na sing an' a - shout fer ev - - er,  
 3. I'm a - go - na see my a - saint - ed moth - - er,  
 4. I'm a - go - na see my a - bless - ed Sav - - ior,


I'm a - go - na walk on the streets of glo - ry some o' these days,  
 I'm a - go - na sing an' a - shout fer ev - er some o' these days,  
 I'm a - go - na see my a - saint - ed moth - er some o' these days,  
 I'm a - go - na see my a - bless - ed Sav - ior some o' these days,




hal - le - lu - yah! I'm a - go - na walk on the streets of glo - - ry,  
 hal - le - lu - yah! I'm a - go - na sing an' a - shout fer ev - - er,  
 hal - le - lu - yah! I'm a - go - na see my a - saint - ed moth - - er,  
 hal - le - lu - yah! I'm a - go - na see my a - bless - ed Sav - - ior,




Gon - na walk on the streets of glo - ry some o' these days.....  
 Gon - na sing an' a - shout fer ev - er some o' these days.....  
 Gon - na see my a - saint - ed moth - er some o' these days.....  
 Gon - na see my a - bless - ed Sav - ior some o' these days.....






## Were You There?



1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (were you there?)  
 2. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?.....  
 3. Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?.....  
 4. Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?.....  
 5. Were you there when He rose from the tomb?.....




Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh!.....  
 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh!.....  
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine? Oh!.....  
 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh!.....  
 Were you there when He rose from the tomb? Oh!.....




Some-times it caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble,  
 Some-times it caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble,  
 Some-times t caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble,  
 Some-times it caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble,  
 Some-times I feel like shout - ing glo - ry, glo - ry,




trem - ble, Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
 trem - ble, Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
 trem - ble, Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
 trem - ble, Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?  
 glo - ry, Were you there when He rose from the tomb?





## Down By the River-Side.

SOLO.

CHORUS.



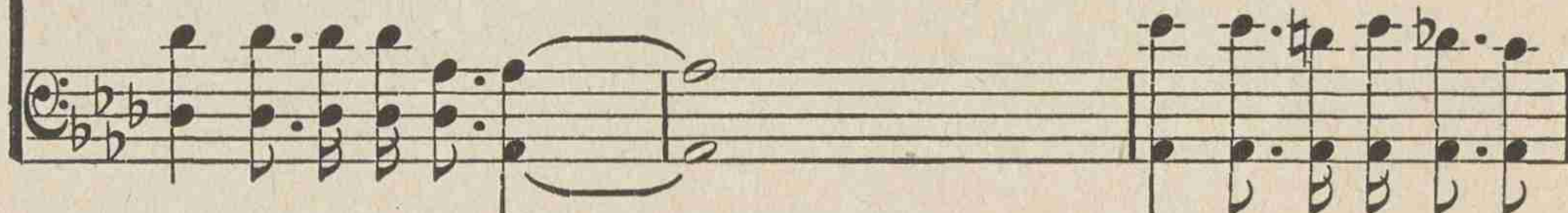
1. Goin't' lay down my bur-den, Down by the river-side, Down by the river-side,
2. Goin't' lay down my sword and shield, Down by the river-side, Down by the river-side,
3. Goin't' try on my long white robe, Down by the river-side, Down by the river-side,
4. Goin't' try on my star-ry crown, Down by the river-side, Down by the river-side,



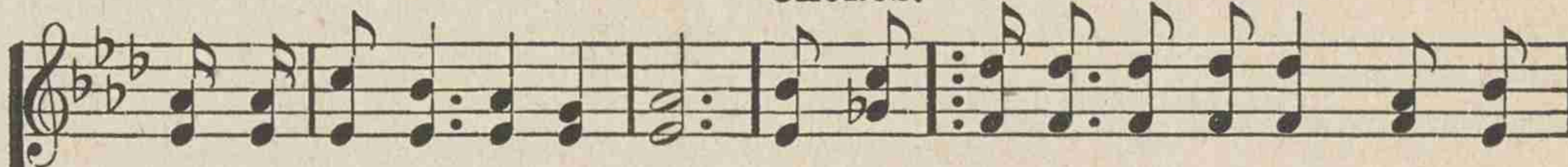
SOLO.



Down by the riv-er-side, Goin't' lay down my bur - den, Down by the riv-er-side,  
 Down by the riv-er-side, Goin't' lay down my sword and shield, Down by the riv-er-side,  
 Down by the riv-er-side, Goin't' try on my long white robe, Down by the riv-er-side,  
 Down by the riv-er-side, Goin't' try on my star-ry crown, Down by the riv-er-side,



CHORUS.



Goin' to stud - y war no more. Ain't goin't' stud-y war no more, Ain't goin't'



stud-y war no more, Ain't goin't' study war no more, . . . . . Ain't goin't' war no more.  
 goin't' study war no more,



5. Goin't' meet my dear old mother.

7. Goin't' meet dear Hebrew children.

6. Goin't' meet my dear old father.

8. Goin't' meet my loving Jesus.



## Great Day.

*ff*

Great day! Great day, the righteous marching; Great day! God's going to build up

1 FINE. 2 SOLO.

Zi - on's walls, Zi - on's walls.....

1. Char - iot rode on the moun-tain-top,
2. This is the day of ju - bi - lee,
3. We want no cow - ards in our band,
4. Goin' t' take my breast-plate, sword and shield,

SOLO.

God's going to build up Zi - on's walls.....

My God spoke and the  
The Lord has set His  
We call for val - iant-  
And march out bold - ly

D.C.

.....  
char - iot did stop, God's going to build up Zi - on's walls!  
peo - ple free, God's going to build up Zi - on's walls!  
heart - ed men, God's going to build up Zi - on's walls!  
in the field, God's going to build up Zi - on's walls!



# 8 I Know the Lord's Laid His Hands on Me.



O I know the Lord, I know the Lord, I know the Lord's laid His



hands on me, O I know the Lord, I know the Lord, I know the Lord's laid His



hands on me. 1. Did ev - er you see the like be - fore?  
 2. O was - n't that a hap - py day,  
 3. — Some seek the Lord and don't seek Him right,  
 4. — My Lord's done just what He said,



I know the Lord's laid His hands on me; King Je - sus preach - ing  
 I know the Lord's laid His hands on me; When Je - sus washed my  
 I know the Lord's laid His hands on me; They fool all day and  
 I know the Lord's laid His hands on me; He's healed the sick and

D.C.



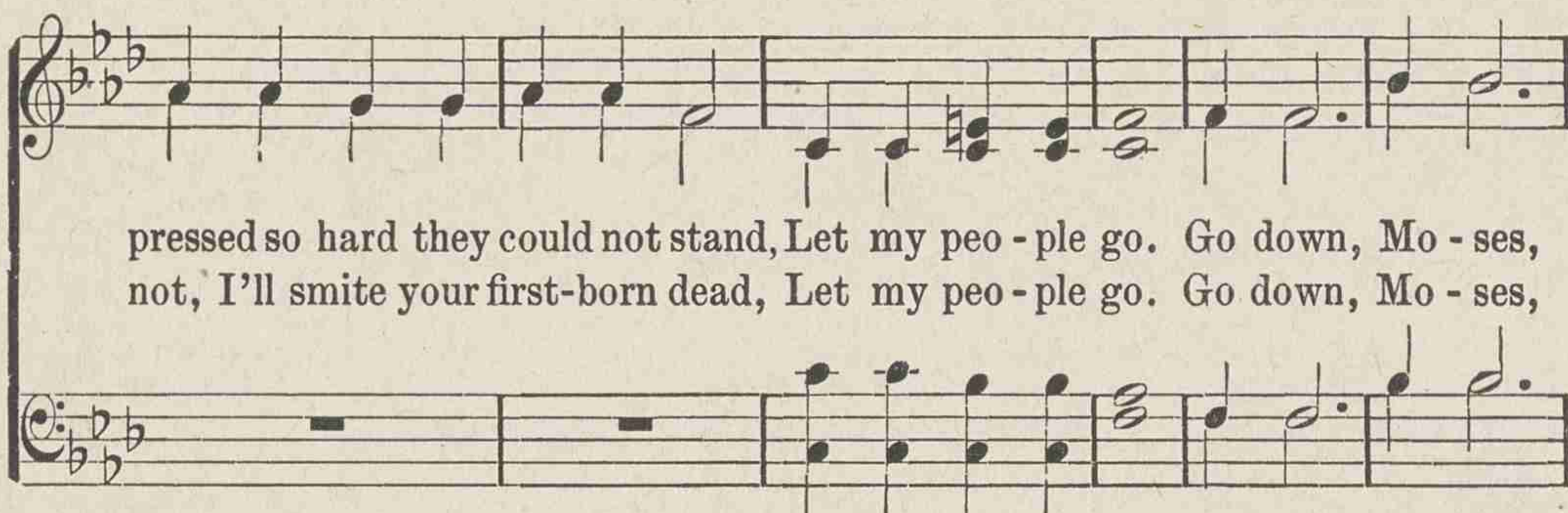
to the poor! I know the Lord's laid His hands on me.  
 sins a - way? I know the Lord's laid His hands on me.  
 pray at night, I know the Lord's laid His hands on me.  
 raised the dead, I know the Lord's laid His hands on me.



## Go Down, Moses.



1. When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land: Let my peo - ple go; Op -  
 2. Thus saith the Lord, bold Mo - ses said, Let my peo - ple go; If



pressed so hard they could not stand, Let my peo - ple go. Go down, Mo - ses,  
 not, I'll smite your first-born dead, Let my peo - ple go. Go down, Mo - ses,

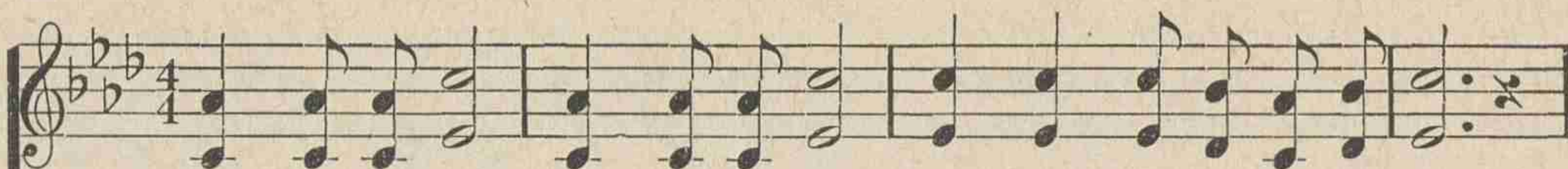


'Way down in E - gypt land, Tell ole Pha-raoh, Let my peo-ple go.


- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 3 No more shall they in bondage toil,<br>Let them come out with Egypt's spoil.      | 11 Pharaoh said he would go across,<br>But Pharaoh and his host were lost.         |
| 4 When Israel out of Egypt came,<br>And left the proud oppressive land.             | 12 O Moses the cloud shall clear the way,<br>A fire by night, a shade by day.      |
| 5 O, 'twas a dark and dismal night,<br>When Moses led the Israelites.               | 13 You'll not get lost in the wilderness,<br>With a lighted candle in your breast. |
| 6 'Twas good old Moses and Aaron, too,<br>'Twas they that led the armies through.   | 14 Jordan shall stand up like a wall,<br>And the walls of Jericho shall fall.      |
| 7 The Lord told Moses what to do,<br>To lead the children of Israel through.        | 15 Your foes shall not before you stand,<br>And you'll possess fair Canaan's land. |
| 8 O come along Moses, you'll not get lost,<br>Stretch out your rod and come across. | 16 'Twas just about in harvest-time,<br>When Joshua led his host divine.           |
| 9 As Israel stood by the water side,<br>At the command of God it did divide.        | 17 O let us all from bondage flee,<br>And let us all in Christ be free.            |
| 10 When they had reached the other shore,<br>They sang the song of triumph o'er.    | 18 We need not always weep and moan,<br>And wear these slavery chains forlorn.     |



## Heab'n.



1. I got-a shoes, you got-a shoes, All God's chil-dren got-a shoes,  
 2. I got-a song, you got-a song, All God's chil-dren got-a song,  
 3. I got-a cross, you got-a cross, All God's chil-dren got-a cross,



When I go to Heab'n gon-na put on my shoes, Gon-na walk all  
 When I go to Heab'n gon-na sing a new song, Gon-na sing all  
 When I go to Heab'n gon-na lay down my cross, Gon-na shout all



ob-er God's Heab'n, Heab'n, Heab'n; Ev'-ry-bod-y talk a-bout  
 ob-er God's Heab'n, Heab'n, Heab'n; Ev'-ry-bod-y talk a-bout  
 ob-er God's Heab'n, Heab'n, Heab'n; Ev'-ry-bod-y talk a-bout



Heab'n aint goin' there, Heab'n, Heab'n, Gonna walk all ob-er God's Heab'n.  
 Heab'n aint goin' there, Heab'n, Heab'n, Gonna sing all ob-er God's Heab'n.  
 Heab'n aint goin' there, Heab'n, Heab'n, Gonna shout all ob-er God's Heab'n.

CODA After last stanza.

Hum with closed lips.



Gon-na shout all ob-er God's Heab'n. m. ....



## Git on Board, Little Children.



Git on board, lit - tle chil - dren, Git on board, lit - tle chil - dren,



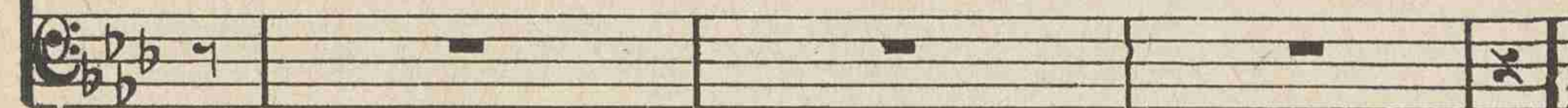
Git on board, lit - tle chil - dren, Dere's room for man - y a mo'.



1. De Gos - pel train's a - com - in', I hear it jus' at han',
2. I hear de train a - com - in', She's com-ing roun' de curve,
3. De fare is cheap, an' all can go, De rich an' poor are dere,



I hear de car - wheels rum - blin', An' roll-in' thro' de lan'.  
 She's loos-ened all her steam an' brakes, An' strainin' eb-'ry nerve.  
 No sec - ond class a - board dis train, No difference in de fare.





## I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray.

LEADER.

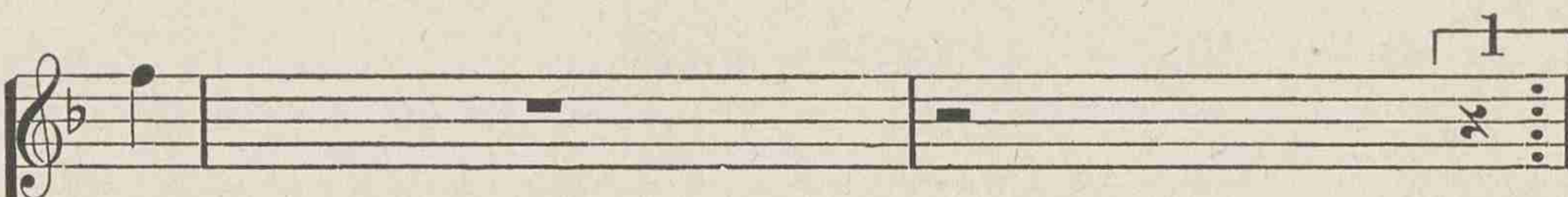


O Lord!.....

CHORUS.



And I could-n't hear no-bod - y pray, And I could-n't hear no-bod-y pray,



O

FINE.



O way down yon-der by my - self, And I could-n't hear no - bod - y pray.



1. In the val-ley,  
2. Chill-y wa-ters,  
3. Hal-le-lu-jah!

On my knees,....  
In the Jor-dan,  
Troubles o - ver!



pray.

A-could-n't hear no-bod-y pray,

A-couldn't hear nobody





# I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray.

D. C.

With my bur-den,                      And my Sav-ior!                      O Lord!  
 Cross-ing o - ver                      In - to Ca - naan!                      O Lord!  
 In the king-dom                      With my Je - sus!                      O Lord!

pray,                      A-couldn't hear nobody pray,                      A-couldn't hear nobody pray.

13

## Little David.

*May be sung in the key of G.*

Lit - tle Da - vid, play on your harp, Hal-le - lu! hal - le - lu! Lit-tle Da - vid,

1. Lit-tle Da - vid was a  
 play on your harp, Hal - le - lu! lu! 2. 1 Josh-u - a was the  
 3. Done told you once, done

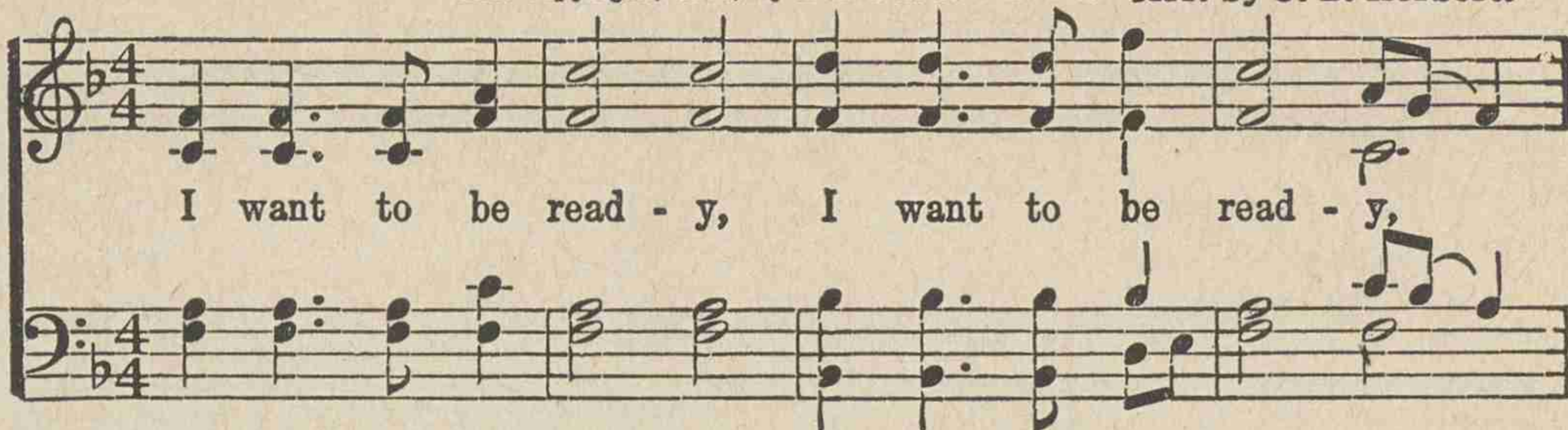
D. C.

shepherd boy, He killed Go - li - ath, and shout-ed for joy.  
 son of a Nun, He nev - er would quit till the work was done.  
 told you twice, There're sinners in hell for shoot - ing dice.



# 14 Walk In Jerusalem Just Like John.

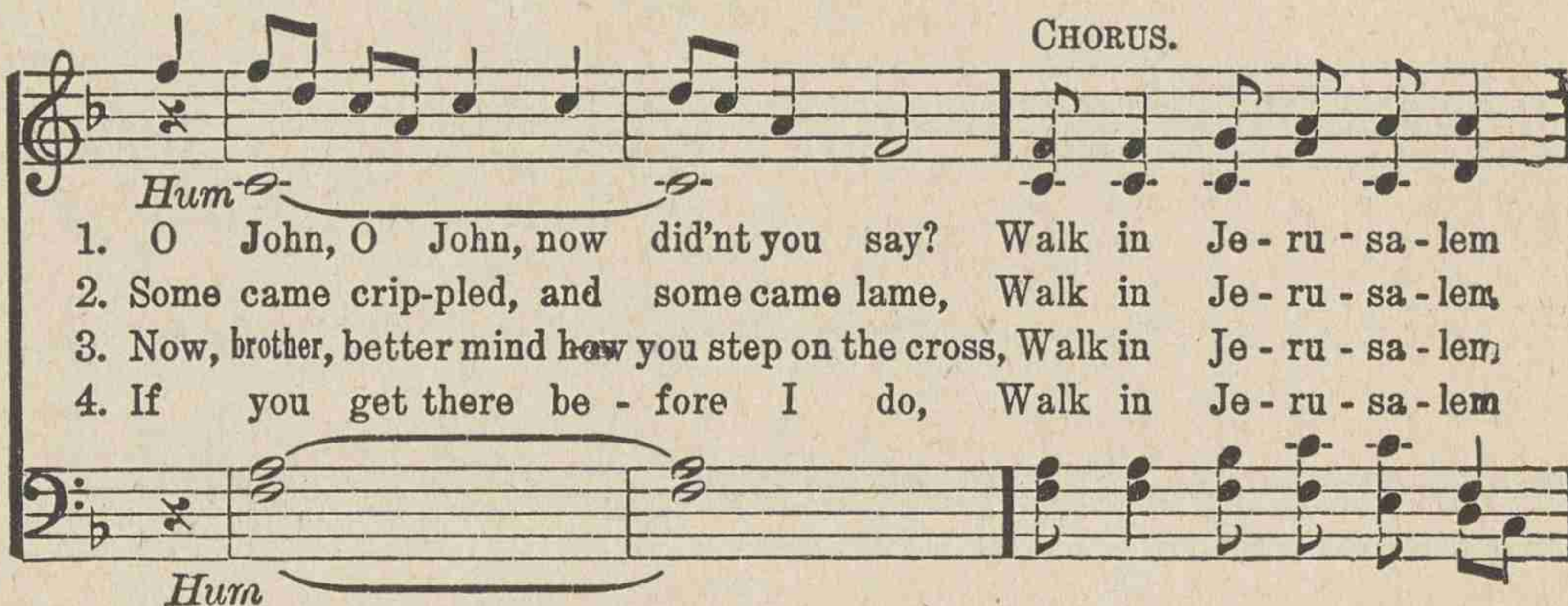
Arr. copyright, 1926, by Homer A. Rodeheaver. Arr. by J. B. Herbert.



I want to be read - y, I want to be read - y,



I want to be read - y, To walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John. FINE.



CHORUS.

Hum

1. O John, O John, now didn't you say? Walk in Je - ru - sa - lem
2. Some came crippled, and some came lame, Walk in Je - ru - sa - lem
3. Now, brother, better mind how you step on the cross, Walk in Je - ru - sa - lem
4. If you get there be - fore I do, Walk in Je - ru - sa - lem

Hum



Hum

just like John. That you'd be there on that great day,  
just like John. Some came walk - in' in Je - sus' name,  
just like John. Your foot might slip and your soul get lost,  
just like John. Tell all my friends I'm a - com - ing too,

Hum



D. C.

Walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John.



## Swing Low.

*Slow.*

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, Com - ing for to car - ry me

*FINE.*

home; Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, Com - ing for to car - ry me home.  
home;.....

1. I looked o - ver Jor - dan, and what did I see,  
2. If you get there be - fore I do,  
3. I'm some - times up, I'm some - times down,

Com - ing for to car - ry me home? A band of an - gels  
Com - ing for to car - ry me home; Tell all my friends I'm  
Com - ing for to car - ry me home; But still my soul feels

*D. C.*

com - ing aft - er me, Com - ing for to car - ry me home.  
com - ing too, Com - ing for to car - ry me home.  
heav - en - ly bound, Com - ing for to car - ry me home.



# 16 Nobody Knows the Trouble I See

## REFRAIN



No-bod - y knows the troub-le I see, No-bod - y knows my sor-row;

## FINE



No-bod - y knows the troub-le I see, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!

## DUET somewhat faster

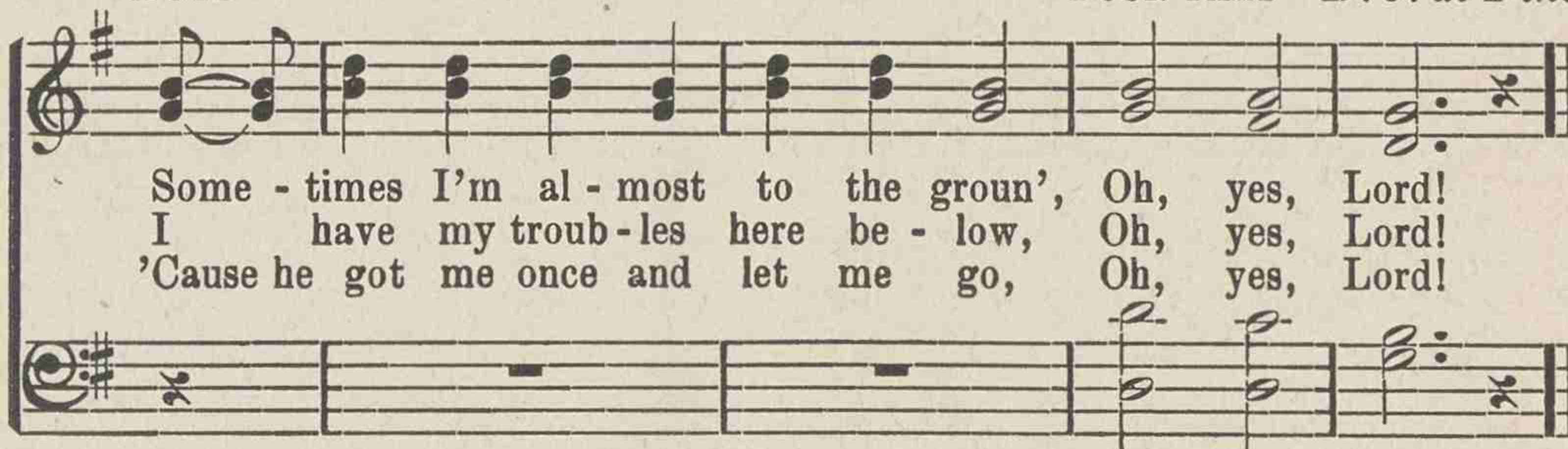
## FOUR-PART



1. Some-times I'm up, some-times I'm down, Oh, yes, Lord!  
 2. Al - though you see me going 'long so, Oh, yes, Lord!  
 3. What makes old Sa - tan hate me so, Oh, yes, Lord!

## DUET

## FOUR-PART D.C. al Fine



Some - times I'm al - most to the groun', Oh, yes, Lord!  
 I have my troub - les here be - low, Oh, yes, Lord!  
 'Cause he got me once and let me go, Oh, yes, Lord!

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## Steal Away.

Steal a - way, steal a - way, Steal a - way to Je - sus!

Steal a - way, steal a - way home, I aint got long to stay here.

*May be sung by one voice, or in unison.*

1. My Lord calls me, He calls me by the thun - der; The  
 2. Green trees are bnd - ing, Poor sin - ner stan's a - tremb - ling; The  
 3. Tomb-stones are burst - ing, Poor sin - ner stan's a - tremb - ling; The  
 4. My Lord calls me, He calls me by the light - ning; The

trump-et sounds with - in my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.

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## *Acknowledgment*

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